AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A sealing assembly ~~element~~, comprising:

a tubular main body of an elastic material, a peripheral wall of the main body enclosing a hollow space that extends along a longitudinal direction of the sealing assembly ~~element~~, with a connecting passage for fluids, and

a diaphragm extending from the tubular main body located at at least one longitudinal end of the tubular main body and at least partially closing at least one longitudinal end of the sealing assembly ~~element~~,

wherein the peripheral wall in the region of the connecting passage is designed in respect of elasticity of the material, thickness of the wall and inside diameter of the hollow space, such that twisting of the main body causes a constriction of the hollow space in the region of the connecting passage in such a way that the constriction is at a predetermined position in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sealing assembly ~~element~~; and

wherein the diaphragm and the tubular body comprise a single piece of a silicone rubber with a Shore hardness greater than 30.

2. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 1, wherein:

the tubular main body comprises first and second longitudinal ends, such that twisting of the two longitudinal ends relative to each other causes regular folding of the peripheral wall in the region of the connecting passage and concomitantly therewith a reduction in the diameter of the connecting passage, which is dependent on the amount of angular twist applied.

3. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 2, wherein:

the peripheral wall has a smaller wall thickness in the region of the connecting passage than in adjacent wall regions.

4. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 1, wherein:

the peripheral wall has a smaller wall thickness in the region of the connecting passage than in adjacent wall regions.

5. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 3, wherein:

the wall thickness of the peripheral wall increases steadily with increasing distance from the connecting passage.

6. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 4, wherein:

the wall thickness of the peripheral wall steadily increases with increasing distance from the connecting passage.

7. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 3, wherein:

the wall thickness of the peripheral wall is substantially constant except in the region of the connecting passage, where the wall thickness is reduced.

8. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 4, wherein:

the wall thickness of the peripheral wall is substantially constant except in the region of the connecting passage, where the wall thickness is reduced.

9. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 2, further comprising:

a flange at the first longitudinal end of the sealing assembly ~~element~~, the flange extending radially outwardly from the tubular main body.

10. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 9, further comprising:

a flange at each longitudinal end of the sealing assembly ~~element~~.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 1, wherein:

the diaphragm has a central opening, a diameter of which is smaller than the diameter of the connecting passage in the fully open condition.

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled).

16. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 1[[4]], wherein:

the Shore hardness is 50 or greater.

17. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 25, wherein:

the Shore hardness is 50 or greater.

18. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 16, wherein:

the Shore hardness is between 50 and 70.

19. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 17, wherein:

the Shore hardness is between 50 and 70.

20. (currently amended) The sealing assembly ~~element~~ of claim 1, wherein:

when the connecting passage is fully open the hollow space is of a round diameter which is substantially uniform over the longitudinal direction so that the hollow space is in the form of a cylinder open at the two ends thereof.

21. (currently amended) An insertion catheter, comprising:

a sealing assembly ~~element~~, wherein the sealing assembly ~~element~~ comprises a tubular main body of an elastic material, a peripheral wall of the main body enclosing a hollow space that extends along a longitudinal direction of the sealing assembly ~~element~~, with a connecting passage for fluids,

and a diaphragm which at least partially closes at least one longitudinal end of the sealing assembly ~~element~~,

wherein the peripheral wall in the region of the connecting passage is designed in respect

of elasticity of the material, thickness of the wall and inside diameter of the hollow space, such that twisting of the main body causes a constriction of the hollow space in the region of the connecting passage in such a way that the constriction is at a predetermined position in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sealing assembly ~~element~~; and

wherein the diaphragm and the tubular body are composed of a single piece of a silicone rubber with a Shore hardness greater than 30.

22. (currently amended) The insertion catheter of claim 21, further comprising:

an insertion opening for electrode lines, guide wires or the like which are to be inserted into a vessel by means of the insertion catheter,

wherein the sealing assembly ~~element~~ is arranged in a region of the insertion opening.

23. (currently amended) The insertion catheter of claim 22, wherein:

the sealing assembly ~~element~~ is arranged and designed for selectively closing or opening the insertion opening.

24. (currently amended) The insertion catheter of claim 23, wherein:

the insertion catheter has two mutually relatively rotatable control elements which are each operatively connected to a respective longitudinal end of the sealing assembly ~~element~~ for setting the diameter of the connecting passage of the sealing assembly ~~element~~.

25. (original) The insertion catheter of claim 24, wherein:

the control elements are arranged in the region of the insertion opening of the insertion catheter.

26. (original) The insertion catheter of claim 25, wherein:

the control elements retain various, mutually relatively rotated positions after setting thereof.

27. (original) The insertion catheter of claim 24, wherein:

the control elements retain various, mutually relatively rotated positions after setting thereof.

28. (original) The insertion catheter of claim 26, wherein:

the control elements latch in various, mutually relatively rotated positions.